AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1258 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1935 — FRANK MORRISON, Secretary — VOL. 25, NO. 21

Whoever does not know how to recognize the faults of great men is incapable of estimating their perfections.—Voltaire.

Kelsey-Hayes Wheel Company Union Described by National Labor Board

Detroit Firm Financed "Employees' Association" in Opposition to A. F. of L. Auto Workers' Union.

All Employes But Company Union Members Banned from Benefit Society Which the Company Supported.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The anti-time of automobile manufacturing corporations in promoting and financing company unions designed to interfere with and prevent the organization of their employes in bona fide trade unions is pointedly revealed in the recent investigation which the National Labor Relations Board made of the Kelsey-Hayes Wheel company, Detroit, Mich. In connection with the petition of United Automobile Workers' Federal Labor Union No. 18677 that an election by secret ballot of the employes be held for the purpose of choosing an agency for collective bargaining with the company.

The Automobile Workers' Union was organized early in July, 1933, shortly after the enactment of the National Recovery Act.

About the same time, although Section 7-A of the Act contained a provision by which Congress intended to ban company-promoted unions, officials of the Kelsey-Hayes Wheel company interpreted the labor section to mean that Congress had given the company union a definite legal status. This is clear from the report of the Labor Relations Board, which said:

Firm Promotes Company Union

"In July of 1933 the management advised the formation of an association of employes to elect representatives to deal with the management in order that the provisions of the National Industrial Recovery Act could be put into effect, and cooperated in the installation of the Employes Association, hereinafter referred to as the Association.

"The Association is similar to other employe representation plans previously considered by this Board and it has for its purpose the promotion of good relation between the company and its employes in the adjustment of collective bargaining subjects and grievances.

"The by-laws of the Association provide for the nomination and election of employe representatives to serve on a Factory Council, which Factory Council represents the Association in its dealing with the management.

"The management has cooperated with the Association by paying for the printing of ballots, by paying employe representatives for time absent from attending Factory Council and committee meetings at their regular pay rate, and by allowing elections to be held on company time."

Despite the fact that Section 7-A of the Recovery Act specifically prescribes that "no employer shall require as a condition of employment to join any company union," the Kelsey-Hayes company indirectly did this very thing. It promoted a subsidiary benefit organization whose membership was limited to members of the company union. On this point the Labor Board's report stated:

Mutual Benefit Society "Limited"

"The Employes Association has organized a Mutual Benefit Society, hereinafter referred to as the Society, to take care of sick and death benefits where members of the Society are involved. This Society has 1,530 members, and its membership is limited to members of the Association. Each member of the Society pays 25 cents a month in dues and, by agreement, the company contributes an amount equal to the total dues paid by the members."

In connection with this mutual benefit society the Labor Board declared company officials unduly influenced employees to join the Employes' Association (the company union), by "financing the Mutual Benefit Society which is limited to members of the Association." That is not all. The company officials established the rule that in order to become a member of the Benefit Society employes must belong to the company union.

Commenting on this plain interference with the self-organization of the employes by the company, which Section 7-A of the Recovery Act prohibits, the Labor Board said:

Company Union Favored

"It is only natural for the employes to join the Association because the company has shown by its support that it favors the Association and it is quite possible if given an opportunity to choose between the Association and the union as their collective bargaining representative, that many of the employes who are members of the Association might nevertheless choose the union as their collective bargaining representative."

Company Enjoins Board

Under these conditions the National Labor Relations Board declared that a public interest required an election of the company's employes to select by majority rule the agency for collective bargaining, and ordered that the election be held under the direction and supervision of the Labor Board's Labor Board for the Detroit District.

In its determination to continue its interference with the right of the employes to organize in an effective and bargain collectively in accordance with the National Recovery Act the company promptly petitioned the Judge to issue an injunction prohibiting the Labor Board from holding the election.

Outlawed by Wagner-Connery Bill

The type of company union promoted by the Kelsey-Hayes Wheel Company will be definitely outlawed when the House of Representatives passes and the President signs the Wagner-Connery Labor Disputes Bill, which has already passed the United States Senate.

Bangor Clothing Workers Win Strike for Union Conditions

Bangor, Me. (AFLNS).—At the conclusion of a two weeks' strike members of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America employed by the Reliable Pants Company of this city returned to work with their grievances settled and a guarantee that two weeks' back wages would be paid.

RELIEF FUND FOR JOBLESS WON BY CLOTHING WORKERS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Toronto, Ont.—The Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union here won a long fight for an employer-supported unemployment relief fund when the Associated Clothing Manufacturers, in a new contract with the union, agreed to maintain a fund equivalent to 1 per cent of their pay rolls to provide relief for workers of their factories while unemployed or in need of help.

William Johnston, manager of the clothing manufacturers' organization, in commenting on the jobless relief fund, said: "If the Government passes a law to take care of the unemployed in the trade during the slack season and those in need of help, this will be unnecessary. We are maintaining a fund on the basis of 1 per cent of pay for members for four years. I imagine they grew tired of it and decided that manufacturers should maintain the fund."

HIGHWAY WORK STOPPED; 15,000 WORKERS FIRED

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Toronto, Ont.—Following an order issued by Peter Heenan, Minister of Lands and Forests, 60 road relief camps on the trans-Canada highway construction employing 15,000 men scattered and the disciplined army of Heenan explained that formerly the Federal Government contributed on a 50-50 basis to trans-Canada highway work and on a 40-60 basis to arterial roads, but that recently the 40 per cent contribution was discontinued.

"We cannot continue to finance these projects ourselves," he continued. "Last year we spent about $22,000,000 on relief camp work and received very little money in return. We had hoped that the Federal authorities would assume their responsibility to the unemployed and restore arterial road contributions and give us definite assurance as to what portion of the trans-Canada highway costs they would bear."

FARM WORK URGED AS ONLY HOPE FOR JOBLESS BOYS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The terrible plight of unemployed boys was emphasized at a recent meeting of the Civic Youth Unemployment Committee of Toronto, Canada, which has 4,000 jobless youths on its register.

According to John DeCrucy, chairman of that organization and well known leader in boys' work, the only hope for unemployed youth is on farms.

"The prospect of placing boys in the city is nil," he declared. He said: "We must pay particular attention to placing boys on farms. If we are to do this we must secure assistance from the Government. We can insist on fair wages being paid. George Berry, vice president, American Federation of Labor, and president, International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union; George M. Harrison, vice president, Canadian Council of Labor, and president, Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks; Paul Scharrenberg, secretary-treasurer, California State Federation of Labor; Henry Ohl, Jr., president, Wisconsin State Federation of Labor, and others.

Praises High Aspirations

"Unquestionably the President's social security program is the most far-reaching and comprehensive effort ever made to ameliorate distress and provide a necessary backlog against periodic unemployment—thus taking the first step in insure stabilization of our American civilization.

"Every citizen should support, wholeheartedly, the principle involved in this legislation. It represents the consummation of the highest of all human aspirations, i. e., protection against poverty-stricken old-age; bringing happiness in the place of misery to those who are no longer able to earn their salt because of physical infirmities.

"Health insurance is the next on mind of those who have been long subjected to destitution and its attendant miseries incident to mass unemployment.

"It alleviates the agony of expectant mothers, who, throughout the length of town, have had no means to properly care for the little ones they bring into the world.

"It extends the priceless boon of renewed hope to crippled children, and nearly all the other unfortunate groups to become vigorous and upstanding citizens, and a credit to themselves, their communities and the Nation.

"Government employes, as good Americans, can but rejoice at introduction of the measure, and I am sure that members of this Federation will gladly avail themselves of the opportunity to go on record as indorsing the principles thus enunciated, and that suitable notice of their action be transmitted to the Congress."

Canadian Government Gives Farmers Low Interest Rate

Ottawa, Can. (AFLNS).—The Canadian Department of Finance in a statement explaining the new farm loan act said that $60,000,000 is now available for new loans to Canadian farmers on first mortgages at 5 per cent interest, which is 2 per cent less than offered to farmers by the Federal Government.

The maximum loan is to be $5,000 and cannot exceed 50 per cent of the actual value of the land and buildings. The proceeds may be used to purchase land, buy fertilizers, seed, live animals, machinery, etc., to erect farm buildings or make other improvements. The first mortgage loans will be repayable in 25 years on terms prescribed by the Farm Loan Board.

Teamsters Win Union Shop Pact from Phoenix Creamery

Phoenix, Ariz. (AFLNS).—The Phoenix Teamsters Truck Drivers' Union secured a contract from the Maricopa Creamery Company here which calls for a guarantee of $100 a month for regular drivers and $125 a month for relief drivers. The regular drivers are paid on a commission basis, but the relief men do not receive a commission on their sales. Union officials say the creamery is the only one in the State operating on the union shop plan.

MISS PENN LAUDS SECURITY PROGRAM

American Federation of Government Employes' Secretary Says Federal Workers Are Deeply Interested in Measure to Protect Jobless and Aged.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—Miss Esther Penn, national secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Government Employes, in an address before the District of Columbia Department of that organization here, urged all Government workers to aid in forwarding the administration's social security program now under consideration by the United States Congress.

In answer to the allegation sometimes made that Government employes are primarily concerned with matters affecting their own welfare, Miss Penn, who is a leading authority on the problems of women workers, cited the large contributions made by Federal workers to the Red Cross, Community Chest and other organizations devoted to the relief of human misery.

"Government employes are, then, much interested," Miss Penn said, "in the so-called social security bill now pending before Congress, and which embodies the principles of the report of the President's Committee on Economic Security, headed by Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor, as chairman, Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury; Homer S. Cummings, Attorney General; Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, and Harry Hopkins, administrator, Federal Emergency Relief.

Aims of Measure Cited

"This committee," Miss Penn continued, "after many months of study and hearings, submitted its report and presented its conclusions to the Congress. This is embraced in H. R. 7260, which passed the House of Representatives by an overwhelming vote.

"The announced purposes of this bill are, 'to provide for the general welfare by establishing a system of Federal old-age benefits, and by enabling the various States to make more adequate provision for aged persons, dependent and crippled children, maternal and child welfare, public health, and the administration of their unemployment laws, etc.'

Membership of President's Committee

"Leaders in every walk of American life, including educators, scientists, economists, business men and women, labor chiefs, heads of welfare groups and other organizations, contributed generously of their time and abilities as members of the President's Committee on Economic Security.

"Organized labor, in particular, was strongly represented by William Green, president, American Federation of Labor; Daniel J. Tobin, vice president, American Federation of Labor, and president, International Teamsters' Chauffeurs' and Helpers' Union; George M. Harrison, vice president, Railway Clerks; A. F. Whitney, and president, Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks; Paul Scharrenberg, secretary-treasurer, California State Federation of Labor; Henry Ohl, Jr., president, Wisconsin State Federation of Labor, and others.

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BOYCOTT OF FOREST CITY CO.'S DRESSES IS URGED

Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Claims St. Louis Concern Pays Sweatshop Wages and Uses Spy System.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

St. Louis, Mo.—A boycott by organized labor of cotton dresses manufactured by the Forest City Manufacturing Company, St. Louis, East St. Louis, Collinsville, Ill., was urged by Locals 181 and 182, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, in an appeal sent to city central bodies by the executive board.

The letter claims that, although the net profits of the Forest City company have run into hundreds of thousands of dollars per year, the concern has paid its employes sweatshop wages running from $1.50 to $10 per week or an average of $7. On the basis of 52 weeks, this brings the actual income of the workers to the starvation scale of between $5 and $4.

Officials of the union declare that to perpetuate these notorious conditions the firm locked out 150 skilled workers nearly two years ago and has introduced a vicious spy system.

SOCIAL SECURITY BILL REPORTED TO SENATE

Retains 3 Per Cent Payroll Tax—Extends Benefits to Seamen—Adds Aid for Blind—Includes Annuity System.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—The Senate Finance Committee voted a favorable report on the administration's Social Security Bill after making certain changes in the measure as passed by the House of Representatives.

The bill proposes a tax of 2 per cent on pay rolls of employers of more than 10 persons to assist in financing State unemployment insurance programs. Agricultural workers, domestic servants and certain other groups are exempted from insurance.

To assist States in establishing old-age pension plans the measure proposes a tax on a Federal fund by a tax of 3 per cent on pay rolls levied against both employers and employes. Benefits may run to $85 a month for retired workers of 65 and over. Agricultural workers, domestic servants and certain other groups are barred from pension benefits.

The Senate Committee reinserted in the bill the original provision authorizing a compulsory contributory annuity system which would permit employes to purchase annuities jointly financed by employer-employe contribution. This provision was stricken out by the bill as it passed the House of Representatives.

The committee also included provisions for extending the old-age pension and unemployment insurance systems to officers and crews of vessels, recommended the appropriation of around $20,000,000 for maternal and child aid to States with accepted plans and included an appropriation of $2,000,000 to establish Federal-State aid systems of benefits to the needy blind.

At the suggestion of Senator LaFollette of Wisconsin the committee added a provision authorizing States to set up the Wisconsin plan of unemployment insurance which is based on separate unemployment reserve funds set up by individual employers. The measure as it passed the House limited the States to establishing "pooled" funds under which all contributions made by employers would go into one "pot" from which payments would be disbursed in all industries to the idle in those lines.

In the measure as reported by the Committee the Social Security Board which would administer the measure is placed in the Department of Labor. The House of Representatives made the board a separate administrative agency independent of other Government bureaus.

NEW RAILWAY PENSION BILL GIVEN CONGRESS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—Representative Crosser introduced the new railway pension bill in the House of Representatives designed to meet the features of the pension law which the United States Supreme Court recently declared to be unconstitutional. The bill was introduced at the request of Joseph B. Wagner of New York. The measure has the backing of the 21 standard railway labor organizations.

The new Crosser-Wagner bill departs from the text of the measure which the Supreme Court invalidated by declaring its purpose to be the promotion of safer and more efficient transportation rather than the welfare of railway employes and omits the provision bringing certain railroad law employes dismissed or otherwise separated from the service during the year preceding the enactment of the law.

It is believed the new stated object of the legislation and the limitation to those employed by the railways when they are in enacted will enable the measure to pass over the Supreme Court hurdle.

JOSEPH F. MURPHY DIES

Secretary - Treasurer, International Union of Elevator Constructors

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—Joseph F. Murphy, secretary-treasurer and former president of the International Union of Elevator Constructors, died of a heart attack in the offices of the union here. He was 71 years old.

Mr. Murphy was born in Brooklyn on March 7, 1864, and received his education in the parochial schools. In 1880 he was employed by the Sprague Elevator Company, and after 1920 by the Otis Elevator Company, which absorbed the Sprague firm.

He resided in San Francisco when elected president of the Elevator Constructors' Union. Four years later, in 1920, he gave up the presidency to become secretary-treasurer, which office he filled until his death.

A requiem mass was offered in the Church of St. Francis Assisi. Interment was in Holy Cross Cemetery.

Lives of Thirty Families Endangered by Mine Cave-in

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa.—A cave-in over the Pittston Company mines in Hughestown, near here, damaged seven homes and routed 30 families. Gas and water mains and telephone and electric wires were broken by the shock of the caving earth.

Although only one person was injured it was generally realized from bitter experience that the lives of all the families were in danger. Three years ago in the same place a squeeze in the coal veins entombed seven men, killing three of them.

Labor Boards Extends Gary Screw Co. Election Order

Washington (AFLNS).—The National Labor Relations Board decreed a two weeks' extension of its rule ordering the Gary Screw and Bolt Company of Gary, Ind., to permit its employes to hold an election for choosing a collective bargaining agency. The company blocked the election by refusing to turn over a list of its employes to the representatives of the board. The extension was made to keep the original order from expiring.

GREEN CRITICIZES WORK RELIEF PAY

Visions Employers Using Government Low-Wage Rates to Drive Down Pay Scales in Private Industry—Fears Strikes.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—The fear that wage rates in private industry are menaced by President Roosevelt's order fixing low relief work wages for the $3,500,000 jobless who are to be given employment under the $4,800,000,000 work relief program was expressed by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor.

"In my opinion the fixing of a wage scale such as has been announced will cause a great deal of dissatisfaction," Mr. Green said.

"I understand that zones have been outlined and standard rates set for each zone," he continued. "That means a departure from the fixing of wage scales on the basis of local conditions to a situation where they are established on a zone basis. It means, therefore, going from a system that provides flexibility to one that provides rigidity.

"That will cause injustice. For instance, Washington, in all probability, has a going wage as high or higher than Toledo, Ohio. Yet a security wage will be in force in Washington lower than that in Canton, Ohio. That will cause widespread dissatisfaction in Washington.

"I am fearful of protest strikes, and I am also fearful that private industry will use these rates to reduce the wages they are paying now."

MUNICIPAL POWER PLANT FOR NEW YORK IS URGED

Mayor LaGuardia Says Plan Would Save $7,000 Customers $70,000,000 a Years.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New York.—Mayor LaGuardia asked the Board of Estimates to approve his plans for a $45,000,000 municipal light and power plant to supply certain of the classes of consumers. The funds for the construction of the plant would be secured from the Federal Government in the form of a loan from the Public Works Administration.

The engineer who compiled the data used by the Mayor said that on the basis of 1,000 customers and the usual cost of operation and depreciation and amortization there would be a saving to consumers of $70,000,000 a year as compared with the prices charged by privately owned companies.

NIGHT CLUBS EMPLOY GIRLS AFTER TEN P. M.; ILLEGAL

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New York.—The New York State Department of Labor ordered 25 nightclubs and cafe proprietors to explain why they compelled some of their waitresses and cigarette and hat check girls to work after 10 P. M. in violation of the State Labor Law, which states that such women employes shall not work between the hours of 10 P. M. and 6 A. M.

The employers claimed the girls are not performers, who are exempt under the law and that usually they are partners in the business, owning perhaps a share of stock. So far as the hat check girls are concerned the proprietors said they were independent business women to whom concessions were let.

Officials of the Labor Department claim these allegations were merely subterfuges to disguise an employer-employe relationship.

Phoenix Hod Carriers' Union Absorbs Federal Labor Union

Phoenix, Ariz. (AFLNS).—The local Hod Carriers and Building Laborers' Union here has absorbed Federal Labor Union No. 19063, which was organized two years ago because there was no local organization with jurisdiction over building laborers who would accept laborers as members.

Recently the International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers' Union of America claimed jurisdiction over the Federal Labor Union. The consolidation of the two organizations followed.

LaClede Gas Co. Strike Prevents Meter Reading

St. Louis, Mo. (AFLNS).—The LaClede Gas Light Company here, whose union employes struck on March 25 to enforce an order of the National Labor Relations Board at Washington requiring the company to bargain collectively, suffered such a disorganization of its working staff that it could not provide meter readers. The company therefore resorted to the subterfuge of sending consumers postal cards with their bills.

Company officials stated that when meters are again read the figures will be checked against the last recorded reading and adjustments made. Although this device would quite likely work in a normal period it was said in all probability a violation of the company's charter, city officials did not interfere with the scheme.

Peoria Building Laborers, Carpenters, Win Pay Boost

Peoria, Ill. (AFLNS).—After a well-directed walkout lasting for a number of weeks the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and the Building Laborers' Union here won contracts from the employers for wage increases. The carpenters secured a general demand of $1.25 an hour and double time for all overtime. The Building Laborers' Union, which has a membership of 500, secured a scale of 75 cents an hour in place of their former scale of 65 cents an hour.

Roosevelt Orders $19 to $94 Wages Per Month For 3,500,000 Jobless

ST. LOUIS BAKERS WIN WAGE INCREASE STRIKE

By A. F. of L. News Service.

St. Louis.—Bakers in 60 retail shops here secured a 10 per cent wage increase as the result of one of the shortest strikes in the history of St. Louis.

Militant in their determination to secure higher pay, more than 1,000 bakers employed in wholesale bakeries and wholesale stores walked out in support of their demands. All of the wholesale and 100 retail shops signed up within 12 hours. The others signed the next day.

Under the new agreement, which lasts for two years, the following weekly wages will be paid to retail employes: Foremen, $40; bench hands, $36; apprentices, $16 to $26. In wholesale bakeries the wages range from $44 for foremen to $29 for helpers.

SHERIFFS USE TEAR GAS BOMBS IN STRIKE FRAY

La Salle, Ill. (AFLNS).—Volley after volley of tear gas bombs was hurled by deputy sheriffs here to beat back strikers and sympathizers who were demonstrating in front of the Apollo Metal Work against a bunch of strikebreakers who were alleged the company had installed in the plant to dismantle it and remove it from La Salle.

Authorities summoned State police, who boarded up the windows of two busses, loaded the 40 strikebreakers into them and removed them from the city.

The strike was caused when officials of the company refused to recognize the union, reemploy five dismissed union members and dismiss a fireman who it was claimed had discriminated against unionists.

The company bucked the strike by ordering the plant dismantled and moved to Bethlehem, Pa., headquarters of the Superior Metal Company, of which the Apollo Company is a subsidiary.

MASSACHUSETTS LABOR URGES GINN BOOK BAN

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Boston, Mass.—The Massachusetts State Federation of Labor urged all State officials and agencies upon a committee to call on school committees and urge them to cease buying text books from Ginn & Company of Cambridge, Mass., until the firm settled its dispute with its union pressmen and bindery workers.

These employes of the Cambridge concern struck a number of weeks ago for better wages and work conditions and recognition of the right to collective bargaining guaranteed by Section 7-A of the National Recovery Act.

In a statement supporting the strike, the Boston Allied Printing Trades Council declared that when the National Recovery Act became effective Ginn & Company were working their employes 48 hours a week and were the only school book manufacturers in the United States whose employes worked over 40 hours. The concern automatically reduced hours to 40 per week but reduced most of their employes accordingly until the wage slash reached 25 per cent.

Tampa Labor Places DeSoto Brewing Co. on Unfair List

Tampa, Fla. (AFLNS).— Believing that further steps bring efficacy to their efforts, DeSoto Brewing Company to their senses regarding the question of labor's rights, the Central Labor Union, Tampa Central Trades and Labor Assembly placed the DeSoto Brewery on the list of organized labor's unfair list and organized a campaign throughout Florida to make the boycott effective.

Some weeks ago the brewing concern agreed to unionize its plant, but it soon developed that the company had no intention of living up to the understanding.

The dispute is tied up with $16,000 worth of stock assigned to the union by the brewing company as a guarantee that it would abide by the agreement. The stock was placed in escrow with a local bank with the understanding that it would be sold if the company went back on the terms it made with organized labor.

Charlotte Striking Typos Demand Union Recognition

Charlotte, N. C. (AFLNS).—The strike of printers, pressmen and bindery workers employed by the Observer City Printing Company here is 100 per cent effective with a picket line constantly on duty. The plant is owned by the Lassiters, who are engaged in the printing industry in Mooresville, near Charlotte.

Printers say the members of the firm have but little knowledge of the printing and binding industry and are evidently trying to impose on their employes in the printing plant the antiunion policy which has animated many of the textile barons.

The strike was caused by the refusal of the concern to recognize the unions and enter into contractual relations with them. Most of the strikebreakers employed by the firm left town when they learned the facts regarding the strike.

Police Arrest Eleven Pickets

New York (AFLNS).—The police arrested six men and five women for picketing the offices of the American Mercury, which was charged by the Regional Labor Board with violating Section 7-A of the National Industrial Recovery Act when they discharged two members of the Office Workers' Union for attempting to organize a union chapel among the American Mercury. The police ordered the picketers to disperse. The pickets refused. And then the gallant police arrested 11 of the picketers for "disorderly conduct."

Workers Classified as Unskilled, Skilled, Intermediate and Professional—90 Per Cent Must Be Taken from Relief Rolls.

Rates Are Far Below Prevailing Industrial Wages—Lowest in The South—40-Hour Week Will Rule.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—Acting in accordance with the authority conferred upon him by the Congress of the United States, President Roosevelt issued an executive order fixing wage scales for the $3,500,000 jobless now on relief rolls who are to be employed with employment under the $4,800,000,000 work relief program.

The wages range from $19 per month for unskilled rural workers in some sections of the South to $94 per month for professional workers in the North.

In setting the wage rates, which are admitted to be far below the prevailing wages in private industry, the country was divided into four sections comprising the deep South, Middle South, Central States and Northern States and the workers in these sections grouped in four classes—unskilled, intermediate, skilled and professional or technical.

In addition to varying wage rates according to regions and the four classifications, the rates also are varied according to five population classifications with the highest wages in cities having over 100,000 population and the lowest in cities of less than 5,000 and rural areas.

An examination of the pay schedules revealed that wage rates for unskilled workers generally are far below the $50 per month first suggested for relief wages, varying from $19 in cities under 5,000 population in the South to $35 in cities of over 100,000 in the North. In intermediate work the rates vary from a low of $27 in the South to $65 in the North.

Skilled workers will be paid an low as $35 in the South, with a maximum of $85 in the North.

Professional and technical workers on the President's work relief will receive from a low of $39 in the South to $94 in the North.

A statement issued by the Division of Applications and Information, headed by Frank C. Walker, said the rates of pay set forth in the President's order were based on the rates applied by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration on its projects before the present $4,800,000,000 work relief program was authorized. The statement added:

"The rates paid on this program in the $4,000,000,000 appropriation of 1934 by States were typically determined by a local wage committee consisting of one representative of business, one representative of labor and the local relief administrator."

The President's order prescribed that except with the specific authorization of the Worker Progress Administration at least 90 per cent of persons employed on work relief projects shall be taken from the public relief rolls.

The order also prescribed consent to one member of a family group and barred employment of persons under 18 years of age.

With regard to hours the order prescribed that the maximum hours of work shall be determined by the Works Progress Administrator, but shall not be in excess of eight hours per day and 40 hours per week.

In establishing the maximum 40-hour week the order followed the hours limitation contained in most NRA codes, regardless of the fact that the building industries are now operating on the 25-hour week and less.

TRACY NAMED FOR LABOR CONFERENCE AT GENEVA

U. S. Government and Employers Will Also Be Represented.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—Daniel J. Tracy, president, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of America, will represent labor at the 19th annual International Labor Conference which opens in Geneva, Switzerland, on June 4, according to an announcement by the State Department here. The Government of the United States, Government employers will also be represented. All three sets of delegates will be accompanied by advisers.

The announcement stated that Charles E. Wyzanski, Jr., solicitor of the Department of Labor, who will be an adviser for the Government delegation, would also be the Government's representative at the seventy-first session of the governing body of the International Labor Office, which begins its sessions at Geneva on May 31.

The three sets of delegates and advisers follow:

For the Government—Dr. Walton Hamilton, member of the National Industrial Recovery Board; Miss Grace Abbott, former chief of the U. S. Children's Bureau and now a professor at the University of Chicago.

For Employers—Henry Dennison, president of Dennison Manufacturing Company.

For Labor—Daniel W. Tracy, president, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of America.

Advisers for Government Delegates—Will Alexander, Department of Labor; Hugh S. Hanna, Department of Labor; William H. Nicholas, Jr., United States Commissioner, Geneva; Miss Margaret H. Schoenfeld, Department of Labor; Leo Wolman.

Advisers for Employers' Delegates—E. Allan Cochrane, Baldwin, Harris; Henry I. Harriman, Boston; Sam A. Lewisohn, New York; James Howe Volkman.

Adviser for the Labor Delegate—Matthew Woll, president, Photo Engravers, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of America, Washington.

30-Hour Week Bill Shelved By Wisconsin Legislature

Madison, Wis. (AFLNS).—The Wisconsin Assembly shelved the 30-hour week for industrial workers when it adopted an amendment to make the proposal effective only when similar Federal legislation is adopted. Opponents of the measure claimed a 30-hour week in Wisconsin while other States did not have similar laws would cripple industry.